

REMARKS

Regarding the status of the present application, Claims 6, 8-12 and 14-18 have been amended and Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to recite what is recited in currently amended method Claims. A typographical error was found in the paragraph starting at page 10, line 35, which has been corrected.

Claims 12-14 were objected to because Claim 12 included a reference character that was not enclosed within parentheses. Reference character "18" has been deleted from Claim 12. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Examiner's objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner indicated that Claim 1 "does not specify how the claimed elements interact with each other to auto-calibrate the spectrometer."

It is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 recites all necessary structural relationships between the various components of the spectrometer to adequately define it. With regard to how the claimed elements interact with each other to autocalibrate the spectrometer, it is clear from reading Claim 1 that a light source outputs light that is coupled by way of optical coupling apparatus to a sample under measurement and to a detector. A shutter assembly selectively couples light or inhibits light from impinging upon and reflected by a reference sample having known reflection or a sample under measurement. Finally, a controller coupled to the detector processes electrical signals output by the detector and implements an algorithm that calculates a calibration value for the spectrometer at each wavelength of light output by the light source using a predetermined equation to autocalibrate the spectrometer.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the controller processes electrical signals output by the detector using an algorithm that calculates a calibration value for the spectrometer at each wavelength of light output by the light source using a predetermined equation to autocalibrate the spectrometer. It is respectfully submitted that the recitation in Claim 1 clearly states how the claimed elements interact with each other to autocalibrate the spectrometer.

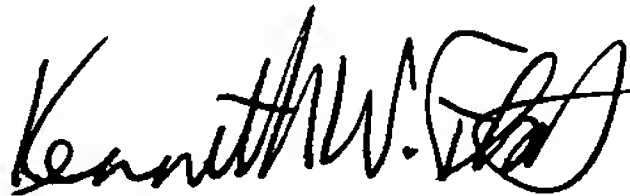
Claims 1-18 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because of antecedent basis issues noted by the Examiner. The pending Claims have been amended to address the Examiner's antecedent basis issues and are considered clear and definite. In view of the above amendments and arguments, withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

The currently pending Claims were not rejected in view of any prior art patents and are considered allowable in view of the prior art found by the Examiner. Allowance of Claims 1-18 is respectfully requested.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure to the extent indicated by the Examiner.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth W. Float", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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